

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MEXICO 11304 230113Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 230019Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2008

S E C R E T MEXICO 11304

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECY ROGERS FROM AMB JOVA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS MOPS CU AO

SUBJECT: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

REF STATE 300139

1. I DISCUSSED TODAY WITH RABASA ANGOLAN SITUATION AND PARTICULARLY CUBAN INVOLVEMENT. (WE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AT DIRECTORATE GENERAL LEVEL IN FOREIGN SECRETARIAT.) RABASA WAS RECEPTIVE AND HIGHLY INTERESTED, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT I SHOULD CONTINUE TO RELAY INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT TO HIM. HE WAS IMPRESSED AND CONCERNED AT INFORMATION THAT POSSIBLY MORE THAN 6,000 CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE IN ANGOLA (AND WE BOTH SPECULATED ON THE EFFECT SUCH A CUBAN FORCE OF SIMILAR SIZE MIGHT AT SOME POINT POTENTIALLY HAVE ON A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY.) RABASA WAS PUZZLED OVER CAST OF CHARACTERS IN INTRICATE SITUATION, E.G. WHAT COUNTRIES BACH WHICH THREE CONTENDING PARTIES. (COMMENT: MUCH OF OUR INFORMATION ON THIS SCORE COMES FROM PRESS; USG "OFFICIAL" INFORMATION THAT CAN BE PASSED TO RABASA WOULD BE HELPFUL.

2. RABASA REITERATED WHAT LOWER LEVEL CONTACT HAD EARLIER INDICATED, THAT MEXICO WOULD BE CAUTIOUS AND WOULD NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, RUSH TO RECOGNIZE MPLA. HE RECOGNIZED HIS PRESIDENT'S IMPULSIVENENSS BUT, IN SHORT, HE PROMISED PRUDENCE AND INDICATED

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THAT HE WOULD PASS OUR VIEWS ON ANGOLA UP TO THE PRESIDENT,

URGING SIMILAR PRUDENCE ON HIM. AT THE SAME TIME HE WISHES,  
AS FRIENDS OF US AND OF THE SECRETARY IN PARTICULAR, TO URGE  
USG TO BE PRUDENT AND NOT "TO GET DRAWN INTO ANOTHER VIETNAM,"  
IT WHAT MAY BE A TRIBAL WAR, REMOTE FROM OUR ESSENTIAL IN-  
TERESTS. WE BOTH RECALLED THE SPANISH PROVERB: "ENTRE  
CANADOS Y HERMANOS, NO AHY QUE METER LAS MONOS."

3. I WILL CONTINUE TO FURNISH RABASA WITH DATA PROVIDED BY  
DEPT AND WE WILL ALSO KEEP LOWER ECHELON OFFICIAL  
CONCERNED WITH I.O. AFFAIRS INFORMED. WE MIGHT CONSIDER A  
MORE FORTHCOMING SPECIAL BRIEFING FOR RABASA ON THE MATTER,  
INCLUDING OUR STRATEGIC INTEREST IN ANGOLA, ETC.  
JOVA

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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